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THE "WHY" IS YOU'RE A NINJA GETTING OFF ON MURDER, CATSA!.
DON'T DARE GET SELF-RIGHTEOUS ON ME!
HE WAS WORKING FOR THE MAYOR. DEADEYE WOULD GLADLY HAVE DONE THE SAME TO US... OR WORSE.
TELL ME YOU HADN'T DREAMED OF HITTING THE BULLS-EYE WITH HIM BEFORE, SLADE...
BECAUSE OF WHAT HE DID TO MY EYE*? I WAS BLIND BEFORE THAT, ELEKTRA.
I'D HAVE TO BE BLIND TO AGREE TO THIS LUNATIC JOB! ARKHAM TOWER IS NOT MY IDEA OF A GOOD TIME...
THE MAYOR OF NEW GOTHAM.
ENIGMA FISK.
COLLOQUIALLY KNOWN AS THE BIG QUESTION.
HOW IS A SKYSCRAPER LIKE A SHOVEL?
THE TWO OF YOU CAN USE EITHER ONE TO DIG YOUR GRAVES.
10 STORIES TO GO, GIRLS. I'M WAITING...
*IN THE NIGHTMARISH DARE #13-- 20/20 DOOLEY

DEADEYE WAS NUMBER 12...
HOW MANY MORE MERCS DO YOU FIGURE BETWEEN US AND THE BIG Q?
FISK THRIVES ON QUESTIONS-- LET'S NOT PLAY HIS GAME!
THERE'S NOT ENOUGH HARDCASES IN GOTHAM TO SAVE HIS SORRY FAT--
HYPERSENSES "READ" THE SURROUNDINGS.
A GRUNT OF HIGH-PITCHED BREATH IN THE ELEVATOR SHAFT.
THE CHEMICAL STINK OF HEAVY EXPLOSIVES.
GET BACK!
LET ME GUESS-- LUCKY 13!
SPATROOM

HIS NAME IS WHAT HE IS--LETHAL. WILD CHEETAH... WILDER HUNTER. COUNTING ON CRAVEN FEAR TO WEAKEN HIS PREY.
HIRED ON TO HUNT BIG QUESTION, EH? MAYBE IT'S YOUR PRETTY HIDES GET SKINNED TONIGHT!
KL
YOU'RE LOOKING AT ALL THE SKIN YOU'RE GETTING, FREAK.
AN EXPERIMENT GONE-TO-THE-DEVIL TOUGHENED SLADE MURDOCK'S BODY, BUT TOOK HER SIGHT.
SHE DOESN'T MISS IT--OR MUCH ELSE.
AN INTERNAL "RADAR" TRACKS THE HUNGA-MUNGA BLADES.
AK
K

SAY HI TO YOUR TAXIDERMIST...
SLADE MURDOCK IS CALLED "DARE" FOR TWO REASONS.
THE DARES SHE TAKES.
THUKK
TWAK!
TWEEK
HYEEARK!
--AND FEW DARE TO GO UP AGAINST HER.
DAMN TRIPPING CATS!
CATSAI'S FELINES ARE SCHOOLED IN MAYHEM. TRAINED TO BE UNDERHANDED-- AND UNDERFOOT.
MEOWRR
BIG QUESTION TOLD ME TO ASK... HOW'S A SHOTGUN LIKE A SNOWBANK?
THEY BOTH STOP YOU COLD.
ASK ME, HE CAN KEEP HIS RIDDLES!
AND YOU CAN TAKE THEM TO HELL...
BTOOM
BTOOM
BTOOM

TWKAAK
ELEKTRA KYLE DODGES THE FIRESTORM WITH SHADOW WARRIOR GRACE...
...AND SLASHES BACK WITH DOMINATRIX PASSION.
LET ME SHOW YOU HOW IT'S DONE...
LET LOOSE OF MY HANDS! LET ME--
CATSA! REELS IN THE PREDATOR WANNABE.
HYRWUK!
AND DARE DELIVERS THE DEATH STROKE.

JIMMY URICH HERE, WITH A WNGN EDITORIAL.
ANYONE ELSE SEE A PROBLEM THAT WE'VE GOT A CONVICTED FELON IN OFFICE? THIS KIND OF THING IS MORE SUITED TO WASHINGTON!
BUT MAYBE I WORRY TOO MUCH. RIGHT.
MAYORAL QUESTION
STILL, RUMORS ARE THICK THAT OUR "BELOVED MAYOR" HAD HAD HIS TEETH PULLED BY THE VERY MYSTERIOUS DR. STRANGEFATE--
--AND THAT THE ONLY REASON THE BIG Q GOT ELECTED WAS SO THE MASKED MYSTIC COULD PLAY PUPPETMASTER.
BUT WHAT'S YOUR OPINION? WE'D LIKE TO--
SKRZZAK
I ASK THE QUESTIONS AROUND HERE...
...

ARKHAM TOWER. A TRIBUTE TO BUREAUCRATIC MADNESS.
LITERALLY.
THE CITY FATHERS BUILT THE GLEAMING NEW CITY CENTER ATOP THE REMAINS OF NEW GOTHAM'S INFAMOUS ASYLUM.
AS FOR THE INMATES, THEY WERE NEVER OFFICIALLY RELOCATED TO A NEW FACILITY.
IT WAS DEEMED POLITICALLY CORRECT FOR THE "PSYCHOLOGICALLY DIFFERENT" TO INTERACT WITH DAY-TO-DAY SOCIETY.
AND IT WAS ALTOGETHER CHEAPER THAN BUILDING THEM A NEW CAGE.
ARKHAM'S LUNATICS ARE THE MOST BLOOD-THIRSTY SOCIOPATHS EVER TO WEAR A STRAITJACKET.
THEY DON'T STAND A CHANCE AGAINST CATSAI AND THE DARE.

NOW WHO'S "GETTING OFF," SLADE?
DON'T START WITH ME, KYLE...
ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE NOT TAKING THIS JOB TOO PERSONAL?
IN THE PAST.
A LONG-STANDING FEUD.
VICE VERSUS JUSTICE, EVER MORE RAW AND BLOODY.
HOW IS A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN LIKE A HOT SUMMER DAY?
BOTH TASTE BETTER WITH A LITTLE ICE CREAM. OR BETTER YET--YOU SCREAM!
DON'T--HOLD YOUR BREATH, FISK!
SUCH BRAVADO, EVEN UNDER THE KNIFE... YOU ALWAYS WERE SUCH A DAREDEVIL.
WHY NOT LOOK LIKE ONE?
NO...NO NEED TO ANSWER THAT QUESTION!
I'VE GOT A GOOD ANSWER RIGHT HERE!
PERSONAL, CATSAI? WE DON'T EVEN KNOW WHO HIRED US TO OFF THAT OVERWEIGHT RIDDLE! IT'S JUST A JOB, GIRLFRIEND.
JUST ANOTHER JOB.

SLAATHT
NO SUCH THING, SWEETHEARTS!
YOU'VE GOT TO BE INTO IT--
--TO GET THE MOST OUT OF IT!
NOW, WHO WANTS TO DIE FIRST?
NATHAN CHASE. KNOWN BETTER--OR WORSE--AS WIRED.
A MANHUNTER BUILT OUT OF FLESH AND MACHINE, STRUNG TOGETHER WITH CYBERNETIC CABLE.
I'M GETTING JUST A LITTLE TIRED OF ENIGMAS TOY SOLDIERS.
AND WHEN I GET TIRED--

"-- I GET CRANKY!"
SKRAKOOM
AVON CALLING

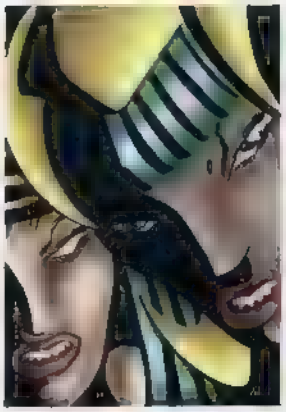
AND MY IMAGE CAN SO USE A MAKEOVER!

YOU TWO LOVELIES, THOUGH-- JUST AS SHAPELY AS EVER! RECENT SCARS AND OPEN WOUNDS ASIDE...

YOUR MOOD'S PRETTY WARM FOR A MAN HEADED FOR A COLD GRAVE

NOW, WHO DO YOU THINK WOULD HIRE YOU TWO TO KILL ME?

THERE'S THE BIG QUESTION AND ANSWER ALL IN ONE



YOU'RE SAYING YOU HIRED--?

WE JUST CLAWED OUR WAY UP 107 STORIES. OUR PATIENCE RAN DRY IN THE LOBBY.

BY NOW, IT'S ALL OVER TOWN: DR. STRANGEFATE ENCHANTED CATSAI AND THE DARE TO MURDER ME. A LITTLE WHITE LIE.

THOSE BODYGUARDS YOU LAID WASTE JUST ADDED TO YOUR ALREADY STONE-COLD ESTEEM. NOW I BUTCHER THE TWO OF YOU...

...AND MY REPUTATION IS REBORN! I BEAT YOU, AND I BEAT HIM! NO QUESTION THAT ENIGMA FISK IS NEW GOTHAM'S POWER!

EVEN IF YOU DO GET TO ME... AT LEAST I DIE IN A FIGHT, NOT AS SOME MAGICIAN'S PATHETIC STOOGE!

SO WE HELP YOU WIN EITHER WAY, IS THAT IT? NOT ON YOUR LIFE, FAT MAN!
WHAT'S LEFT OF IT.
DARE-- DON'T!
BLIKEEP
IT'S A TRAP!
SLIKAAM
NO!
KLAANG

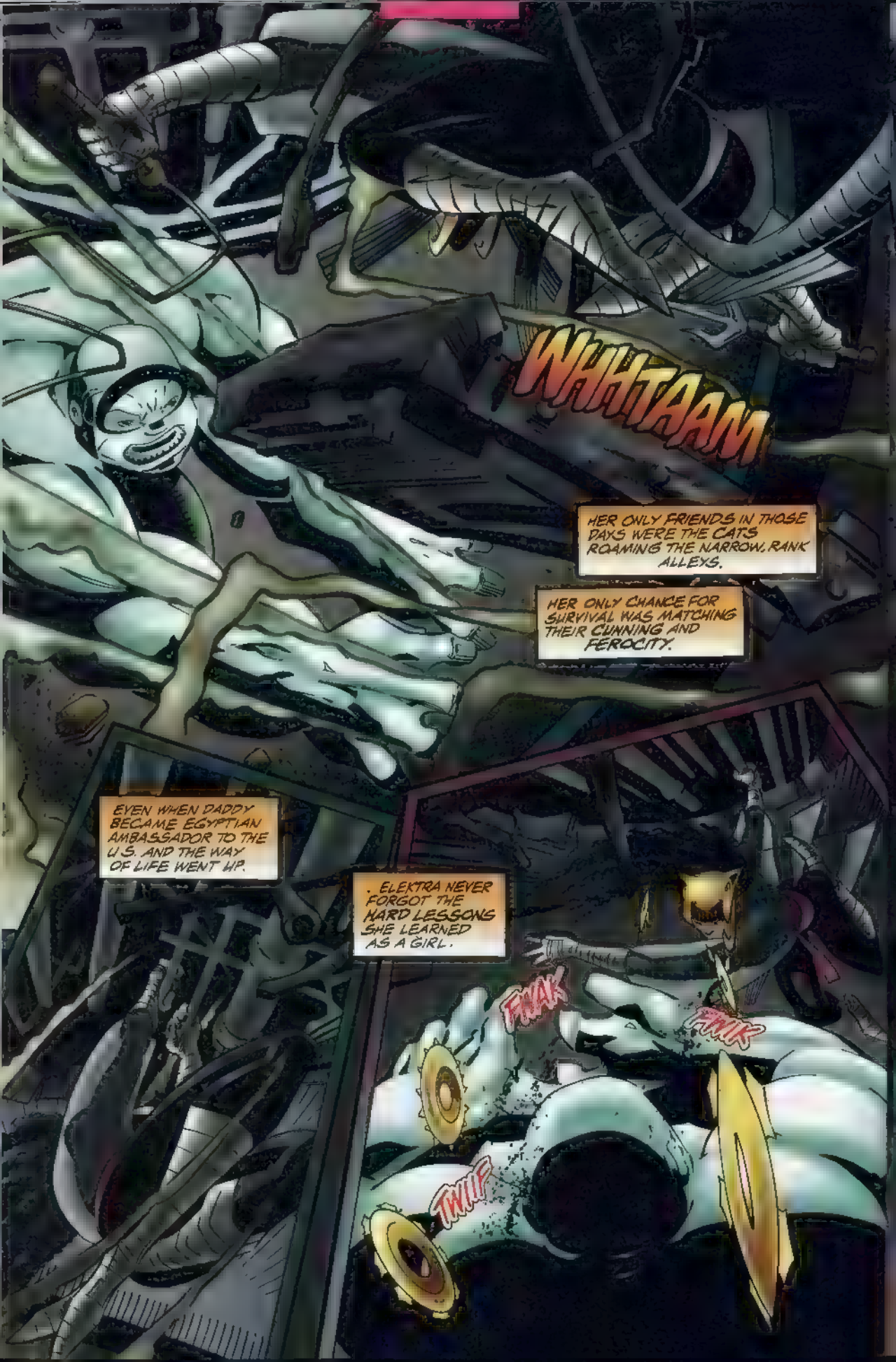
SUCH EAGERNESS-- I'M FLATTERED!
SLAAFT
WHAT DOES TAKING THESE RISKS GET YOU, DARE?
YOUR HEAD ON THE END OF A BLOODY--
CRAAK
--OFF-- GET OFF YOU--
UH-UH-UH! WRONG ANSWER.
TRY THIS ONE WHAT DID THE PERFORMING UNICORN SAY TO THE TRUMPET?
"HEY, ARE YOU TRYING TO HORN IN ON MY ACT?"

YOU NEVER DID THANK ME FOR MY GENEROUS GIFTS.
DO YOU MIND IF I TAKE THEM BACK?
GWRII
EESH
MY. ALL THAT BLOOD. AND BONE AND--YE..LOW, OILY. GOO
--WON'T SCREAM-- I-- WON'T--
LOOKS SERIOUS.
HERE'S A QUESTION FOR YOU DO YOU WANT I SHOULD CALL A DOCTOR?
TAKE YOUR TIME TAKE AN ETERNITY.

NOW THE SAME FOR YOUR SLINKY PARTNER..
MEEOW
WHAT--?
MEOWWR
WHERE DID...?

TLAANK
I HATE CATS
bleep
KLIK

BRAAKUUUM
OH DID KITTY MAKE A MESS OUTSIDE HER LITTERBOX?
SORRY
YOU'LL SUFFER FOR THAT TRAMP.
YOU PIECE OF--
ELEKTRA KYLES HEARD WORSE THAN THIS KINGPIN OF RIDDLES SPITS OUT.
GROWING UP ON THE STREETS OF CAIRO, THERE WAS PLENTY OF CHANCE FOR THE WORST OF EVERYTHING.


WHHTAAM
HER ONLY FRIENDS IN THOSE DAYS WERE THE CATS ROAMING THE NARROW, RANK ALLEYS.
HER ONLY CHANCE FOR SURVIVAL WAS MATCHING THEIR CUNNING AND FEROCITY.
EVEN WHEN DADDY BECAME EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR TO THE U.S. AND THE WAY OF LIFE WENT UP.
. ELEKTRA NEVER FORGOT THE HARD LESSONS SHE LEARNED AS A GIRL.
FWAK
FWIK
TWIIP

FWOOM
AMBASSADOR KYLE'S MURDER WAS A DEVASTATING BLOW TO HIS DAUGHTER.
IT LED HER TO A SCHOOL OF NINJUTSU, WHERE OLD CUNNING AND FEROCITY FOUND A HOME.
KRAK
WHOKT
AND IT WAS THERE THE ASSASSIN NAMED CATSAI WAS BORN.
THE DARE WAS MY--SHE WAS MY GOOD FRIEND.
THE SAIS GLEAM WITH DEADLY COLD STEEL--

--BEFORE REVERSING ABOUT IN CATSAI'S HANDS, THE HILTS BECOMING BRUTAL HAMMERS.
WRPNNK
AND KILLING YOU WOULDN'T BEGIN TO EQUAL THE HURT...
THERE'S A BETTER WAY.
THE WORST WAY...

THE APARTMENT OF REPORTER JIMMY WRICH
FOUR WALLS OF TYPEWRITER RIBBONS AND CIGARETTE BUTTS.
BRING BRING
YEAH, YEAH, I'M HERE!
WHO IS THIS? WELL, I DON'T-- ENIGMA FISK? YEAH, OKAY. I'M INTERESTED WHAT?!
SURE, SURE... I'LL CHECK IT OUT. AND I'LL BELIEVE IT WHEN I SEE IT!
WHUP WHUP WHUP
HECK, I STILL DON'T BELIEVE IT!
BUT J. JONAH WHITE IS GOING TO PAY BIG FOR THE EXCLUSIVE..
KLIK KLIK KLIK

GOTHAM BUGLE
NO QUESTION-FINISHED!
PHOTO.JIMMY
NOW THERE'S NOT EVEN ENOUGH RESPECT TO BE A STOOGE.
IT DOESN'T BALANCE THE SCALES, FAT MAN. BUT IT'LL DO WHILE I COME UP WITH MORE...
...CREATIVE TORTURES.
COME ALONG, KITTIES.
THERE'S A NEW CONTRACT WAITING TO EXECUTE...
NEXT: THE DARE DEAD? CATSA! ON THE PROWL? AND WE'RE NOT EVEN AT ISSUE #2 YET! NEXT UP: "BLOOD IS THICKER!"

LAST WRITES

Once again: AMALGAM DELIVERS!!! We've heard your demands! The comic you hold in your hands is proof of that. The Lethal Ladies who started the whole Nasty Girls craze are finally together in one book and by the team that brought you the epic "Cat Up a Tree," Dan Chichester, Scott McDaniel, Derek Fisher, and Pat Garrahy. We've decided to fill this lettercolumn with comments from DARE THE TERMINATOR, since it was there we received most of your entreaties. So enjoy away!

Dear Amalgam,

Don't make me come to your fancy uptown Park Avenue offices and hurt you, but someone's gotta knock some sense into you guys. Come on! Ever since Dare and Catsai first met all the waaaay back in DARE THE TERMINATOR #168, it should have been evident what your next move should be. Here's a clue:

GIVE DARE AND CATSAI THEIR OWN BOOK TOGETHER!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Did you get that? I hope so, 'cause I really don't want to come up and hurt you, but I will if I have to.

Olav Marchese
The Netherlands, NJ

Please call off the dogs. We got the message.

Yo, Amalgam,

What's taking so long? What're you guys, crazy or lazy? Why don't Catsai and Dare have their own book yet? I could see if your company had been created just yesterday, but you guys have been around forever. You know if smilin' Stan Schwartz were still editing books on a day-to-day basis he wouldn't let this golden opportunity slip by. He would've had Catsai and Dare together in their own book well before now. Get on it! 'Nuff Afternoon!

Garrett Jones
New York, NY

If it's not physical assault, it's verbal. And it didn't get better when the news leaked of ASSASSINS...

So-called Assassins,

I can't believe you people at Amalgam are giving Dare and Catsai another book to appear in. Let's face it, you're not going to top the great stories by either Frank O'Neil or J.M. Wolfman. Those were classics. All you're doing now is cashing in on the bad girl craze. I'll be surprised if there's any storytelling in these. I'll bet it'll just be one gratuitous pinup shot after another. You're calling this ASSASSINS? It fits because you're killing off good comics with mercenary stuff like this. I should have seen the trend when you did the "Death of Super-Soldier" stunt only to be followed by that Spider-Boy clone business. I won't even mention this other thing you've got coming. BULLETS AND BRACELETS.

Hope you're satisfied—you murdered this comic fan.

Charles J. Rohlfing
Flushing, DE

And you know he's gonna like it once he gets his facts straight like our next informed reader...

Almighty Amalgam,

Is what I'm hearing about this ASSASSINS title true? Dare and Catsai together? All right! And by Dan Chichester and Scott McDaniel! Man, I love what they did with the pair in "Cat Up a Tree." But I'm mad that you decided to go back to Dare and Catsai's old costumes. Dare looked great more exposed. The new costume gave her freedom to move. It made sense for someone who fights like she does to wear something like that. I don't think it was gratuitous. And by the same token, Catsai's new armor was also practical. Look at what her "boyfriend" Dark Claw's got. She needs the protection for that relationship to work.

Again, I can't be happier with the team on this, especially McDaniel. With his moody pencils this book will have the class and right atmosphere for the Lethal Ladies' adventures, and you'll avoid the bad girl controversy that poor Jim Balent had to deal with on CATSAI. So what if he made her ears too big.

This is one happy Amalgamite!

Kimberly Warren
Derby, CT

Thanks, Kim. You should have a talk with Ron Harrison about those costumes before the release of issue #6, which will make one of you real happy, and the other, well...I'll just go duck and cover now.

Guys,

If what my local comic shop dealer says is true, I got a couple of questions about this new DARE/CATSAI book:

1) Will we be seeing Winterstick again? She did a great job teaching Dare. Think of what new tricks she could get Catsai to do.

2) Anything more about that alleged mutant daughter of Dare's?

3) Is there going to be a romantic triangle between Dare, Catsai and Dark Claw?

4) Will Lethal be going claw to claw with Catsai? Which leads to...

5) When will this duo meet up with Wonder Woman?

Mike Kenfield
Dearborn, MI

Who are you? The "Little Question"? Anyway, here goes...

1) The old girl wasn't doing too well in those last few issues of Dare's own book, and besides, do you really think Catsai would listen to anyone much less do tricks for them?

2) Well, Dare was forced to kill Jericha back in MUTANT TITANS #83 during the finale of "Mutant Hunt." But Terra-X is still running around, so if not here, maybe in JLX some new revelations may crop up as the "Age of Doomsday" approaches.

3) Hardly. We don't know what to make of Catsai's relationship with Dark Claw, which has its own triangle already with Bruce Wayne, Agent of S.H.I.E.L.D. Dare and Dark Claw can hardly be in the same room without trying to kill each other, but come to think of it, isn't that what love's all about?

4) This very issue. Too bad for Lethal.

5) Ororo is in big trouble with the gods this month, which is way out of the league of our girls. But we have something coming up real soon involving Dr. Strangefate that may bring Diana into it, and how far can her Amazon sister be then?

—Kevin Berganza
MEEEOWWRR

NEXT ISSUE: It ain't over till the fat cat sings. Is Catsai really dead? Will Dare avenge her? You think our next issue's visit from Strangefate will give hope? Think again. But be here.

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